

INSIDE THE CIA

The Spy Who Tried to Come in from The Cold

While the dangers of working with spy agencies may be romantically apparent if one considers that one's life is at risk while delving into the political secrets of a foreign power, there is also the hazard of what may occur if the disfavor of an agency such as the CIA is incurred.

Formerly classified documents obtained from the CIA under the Freedom of Information Act revealed (FREEDOM 36) that as early as 1951, the CIA was seeking to solve the "problem" of how to "dispose" of disaffected or blown agents. Incarceration under a variety of excuses was one ploy as well as psychiatric "treatment" with drugs and electric shock to produce amnesia.

Whether by design or accident, FREEDOM was contacted by a man who related such a story. Recruited by the CIA in 1965, Verne Lyon is now jailed in Leavenworth Federal Prison with a tale that would be discounted as fiction except in light of the CIA's own documents of how to "dispose" of an agent and the fact that a portion of his court record was sealed by CIA despite their denial that he had any association with them as well as other unexplained oddities.

FREEDOM has spoken with Mr. Lyon as well as his attorneys in St. Louis and Canada and the CIA. We believe his story deserves telling in the form that

"And Ye Shall Know The Truth And The Truth Shall Make You Free (John 8:32). These words held a singular meaning for me when I first saw them inscribed on the marble walled main lobby of the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. It was 1965; I was a junior at Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa and I had just been invited to join the prestigious CIA.

Feeling like the White Knight going forth to do battle against the forces of evil, I ventured forth as part of this world's most secret and dangerous government hoping that I could help extract my country, representing democracy and freedom, from the Communist tentacles of Vietnam which represented totalitarianism and slavery. True, I was a lowly recruit and my initial spy work would consist mainly of providing reports and character sketches about fellow ISU students; but I knew that bigger and better things lay ahead. Whatever was required of me was of little importance, I would help save my country from the deepening quagmire of Vietnam in spite of itself.

With that attitude, I began a long fourteen-year nightmare with the CIA that has taken me from a relatively quiet Midwest campus to Cuba, Russia, Europe, South America and then to a cell in Leavenworth Federal Prison. During that time, I have had the opportunity of being able to see the "Company" from a vantage point that few others, if any, ever achieve. In going from protege to prisoner, I was to find that the CIA was not what we delude ourselves into thinking that it is. What I found was so distorted and repugnant that I turned away from the monster — and I am not alone. Others with many more years' experience and service than I have also seen the light and instead of turning inward and keeping the awful truth to themselves, they have spoken out to warn of the impending doom that will surely result from a secret government on an unrestrained rampage. By doing so, they have made great personal sacrifice. By writing this factual account of my CIA experience, I hope that I am not among the many innocent and sane prisoners here at Leavenworth to be chosen for Prolixin, Hadol, or other psychotropic mind-warping drug

injections. Or, if being locked in a psychiatric ward by our local equivalent of Dr. Mengele isn't sufficient, a transfer to the Medical Facility at Springfield, Missouri, can finally, once and for all, still any revelatory impulses toward disclosing the facts about the CIA — or, for that matter, ever thinking any coherent thoughts again.

My involvement with the Company began when, unknown to me, a boyhood friend of mine — Jerry C —, who had previously joined Naval Intelligence, had mentioned my name as a possible recruit. (Jerry's family was later reimbursed \$150,000 for his death by the Israeli government when they deliberately bombed the USS Liberty, an American electronic intelligence monitoring ship, during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.)

The Intelligence community did follow up on his advice and their recruiter made his pitch thusly; Brown Engineering Company of Huntsville, Alabama, who contracted to NASA, was one of the companies offering me a job. However, I declined. Shortly after this, I was again contacted by Brown for a job interview. At this meeting it was disclosed by William Harris, the interviewer, that he was really with the CIA, not Brown Engineering, and they wanted me to collect information on the political groups at the Iowa State University, Ames campus.

It seems that my new employer, the CIA, was especially interested in the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). The National Students Coalition Against The War, and even in the Democratic and Republican Party student branches. Their sources of finance were of primary concern. Their political literature and future agenda

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